

Appl. No.: 09/849,198
Amendment dated December 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 69493

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action mailed on September 10, 2004, the examiner rejected claims 1 and 15 under 37 C.F.R. §103(a) as unpatentable over Shimizu et al. (USPN 4,866,702) and rejected claim 4 under 37 C.F.R. §112, first and second paragraphs. The Examiner objected to Claim 15 because of a typing error.

The Examiner also objected to the specification, the Related Applications section. By this Amendment, Applicants amended the specification to update the related applications data.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-3, 5-14 and 16-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, Applicants amended claims 1 and 15 to incorporate limitations of claims 2 and 16, respectively, and cancelled claims 2, 4, and 16. Claim 15 was also amended to correct the typing error and to overcome the examiner objection. Claims 3, 5 and 17 amended to comply with the amended base claims. In making these revisions care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

By this amendment, the independent claims 1 and 15 were amended and now include the limitations of the allowable dependent claims 2 and 16, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 15 as amended are novel and allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending dependent claims are also allowable as dependent upon allowable independent claims and the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (312) 577-7000 with any questions in connection with this communication.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

Date: 12/3/04

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